

From: Joel Ingulsrud
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 5:24pm
Subject: Microsoft punishment

Dear DOJ,

Your settlement with Microsoft does not punish Microsoft in any meaningful way. Regardless of the enforceability of "behavioral changes" spelled out in the settlement, the fact remains that Microsoft is getting off scot-free for decades of criminal behavior. Your settlement lets Microsoft executives behave in public as if they never did anything wrong. Your settlement is an insult to the hundreds of thousands of hard-working, creative computer industry workers who's lives have been and continue to be diminished by Microsoft's bullying.

Please punish Microsoft as severely as they have illegally punished everyone who has tried to compete with them for the past twenty years--by levying billions of dollars in fines (to be distributed to university and national laboratory computer science research and development departments) and banning all public advertising and marketing of Microsoft products for ten years.

This settlement is ten years late for the countless operating system, word processor, spreadsheet, presentation, email, media player, 3D API, programming tool, and web browser software developers out there, but if you instituted real punishment sufficient to cause Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer to be forced to resign, at least the playing field would be level for the few of us who are left standing.

Sincerely,

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